environmental and developmental programmes so as to hasten population stabilisation.

(iii) To promote inter-sectoral coordination in planning and implementation across Government agencies of the Central and State Governments, to involve the civil society and the private sector and to explore the possibilities of international cooperation in support of the goals set out in the Policy.

(iv) To facilitate the development of a vigorous people's movement in support of this national effort.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Families under BPL

4516. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the families covered under Below Poverty Line (BPL) alongwith the criteria followed by Government therefor;

(b) whether the daily wages employees and contract employees working in Government offices are also covered under this Scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) In the rural areas at the behest of Ministry of Rural Development (MORD), the State Governments conduct the Below Poverty Line (BPL) census at the beginning of each Five Year Plan in order to identify BPL families, who are ultimately the beneficiaries of the programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development. The BPL Census for the 9th Five Year Plan was conducted on the basis of criteria suggested by an Expert Group. The schedules used in the census had two parts, *i.e.* Part-A & B. Part-A sought information like whether the household has more than 2 hectares of land, has a *Pucca* house, TV, Refrigerator, Ceiling Fan, Motorcycle/Scooter, Three-Wheeler, Tractor, Power Tiller, Combined Thresher/harvester, etc. If "Yes" is

indicated for any of the items in Part-A, of the schedule, the household gets excluded from the BPL list and the investigator need not fill up Part-B of the schedule. However, in case "No" is indicated for all items of Part-A, the investigator would go to Part-B of the schedule.

Part-B makes the assessment of the expenditure of the household on various items during last 30 days. If the total expenditure is less than the poverty line (*i.e.* minimum amount of money required *i.e.* on food, clothing, shelter, fuel and light, education, travel, medical expenses, entertainment etc.), the family is included in the BPL list. Otherwise it is excluded from the BPL list.

Further, in urban areas, the Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation is using the State-specific poverty lines for identifying BPL families. In addition, seven non-economic parameters of living conditions namely (i) roof, (ii) floor (iii) water (iv) sanitation (v) education level (vi) type of employment and (vii) status of children in a house are also used for identifying genuine beneficiaries.

People living below poverty line

4517. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons living below poverty line as on the 31st March, 2000 in the North-Eastern Region, State-wise/District-wise;

(b) the details of the amount granted by Government during the last five years for poverty alleviation programme; and

(c) the details of the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The Planning Commission estimates the number and percentage of persons living below the poverty line at national and state level from the large sample surveys on consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Orginisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The latest available estimate of poverty is based on the 55th Round of the NSS consumer expenditure data covering the period